



Milwaukee County

Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., 16th District

For Immediate Release October 25, 2011
Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

COUNTY EXECUTIVE DENIES PUBLIC INPUT ON MMSD SEWER PROJECT

Milwaukee, WI –Milwaukee County Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., released the following statement after County Executive Chris Abele vetoed an advisory referendum on the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's (MMSD) plan to spend approximately \$41.1 million of public funds to expand a sanitary sewer in Franklin:

“It’s extremely disappointing that County Executive Chris Abele is denying an opportunity for the public to weigh in on this project. I have heard from a number of residents in Franklin who don’t want this project to proceed. This is a gross waste of taxpayer dollars, and the public should not be shut out of the process.

“MMSD wants to spend \$41 million to build a sewer in a cornfield in Franklin – without hearing from the public via referendum – while we have properties in the existing MMSD service area that are routinely flooded. MMSD should instead invest this \$41 million in neighborhoods within the existing MMSD footprint that truly need help, especially areas that routinely have flooded basements during heavy rains.

“Rather than giving the people a voice in the way their tax dollars are spent, County Executive Abele is siding with big business and corporate interests. The County Executive’s veto is a slap in the face to property owners who have already paid billions of dollars into the MMSD system over the years. These families need a return on their investment, and they should have a voice in the discussion. I am encouraging my colleagues on the County Board to override this veto on November 3rd.”

Supervisor Weishan sponsored the resolution calling for the referendum, and it was adopted by the County Board on September 29, 2011.

###